



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR STANDARDS BOARD**  
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**PESB Establishes Requirements for Subject Knowledge Test for Prospective Teachers**

Prospective teachers in Washington state will have to demonstrate mastery of the subject knowledge they will teach by passing a standardized test beginning in September 2003. The Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB), charged with determining the requirements for the test and the level of difficulty, has released a formal request seeking bids from publishers to develop tests in 33 endorsement subject areas.

“Subject knowledge tests will ensure that teachers in Washington have met the teacher certificate endorsement competencies adopted by the State Board of Education this week,” said Tom Charouhas, PESB chair and science/technology teacher in Lake Washington School District. “Our mission as a board is to maintain educator quality in the state.”

“PESB is moving with deliberate speed to fulfill the mandates the State Legislature established when it created our board of K-12 and higher education professionals,” added Jennifer Wallace executive director of the PESB.

The PESB is charged with recommending policies related to recruitment, training, retention, and evaluation of educators. Among the items identified in the Legislature’s work plan was the development of two tests for prospective teachers: a common basic skills test that higher education institutions would use for admissions to teacher preparation programs and a content test in the subject area the candidate is seeking certification to teach, such as secondary math or English. Teachers moving into Washington to accept positions within the state would also be required to pass the basic skills test beginning in September of 2002 and a subject knowledge test beginning in September of 2003.

“This board includes some of our state’s finest educators,” continued Wallace, “and they understand well what it takes to be a good teacher. They are in the best position to determine what an appropriate test would be.”

The law gives the PESB authority to establish exceptions to this requirement, for example, individuals from other states who have demonstrated proficiency through a similar subject knowledge test. The PESB may permit other exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

“PESB will reach out to those with a vested interest in the selection process,” said David Anderson, the board’s assessment director, who described a work plan, which includes review by interested stakeholders of the test proposals received. The board expects to announce the successful bid by June, and begin a pilot of the tests by September.

**Information: Contact David Anderson at 360-725-6277**

[www.pesb.wa.gov](http://www.pesb.wa.gov)